

*Thirty-fifth Annual Report*

Maryland State Board  
*Of*  
Motion Picture Censors



1950-1951

Offices  
848 NORTH HOWARD STREET  
Baltimore-1, Maryland

785751

*Thirty-fifth Annual Report*  
**Maryland State Board**  
*Of*  
**Motion Picture Censors**

**1950-1951**

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**SYDNEY R. TRAUB**  
Chairman

**EVA M. HOLLAND**  
Vice-Chairman and Treasurer

**JOHN K. BURKLEY**  
Secretary

**ELMER P. BUTZ**  
Administrative Assistant

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Offices  
848 NORTH HOWARD STREET  
Baltimore-1, Maryland

HONORABLE THEODORE H. MCKELDIN,

*Governor of Maryland,*

Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Governor McKeldin:

Complying with Section 9 of Chapter 390 of the Acts of 1922, as thereafter amended, the Maryland State Board of Motion Picture Censors hereby submits to you its Thirty-fifth Annual Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1951.

The report contains information as to the films examined and other activities of the Board, together with an account of its receipts and disbursements.

#### Operations of the Board

The Board reviewed 2,339 original subjects, consisting of 799 dramas, 538 comedies, 581 newsreels, 235 cartoons, 165 advertisements and 21 miscellaneous films. Nine films were rejected and 58 were subjected to deletions. The footage of the original subjects aggregated 6,877,132 feet. In addition, 54,251,194 feet of duplicate films passed through the department.

Of the pictures rejected or deleted, only one, *Mom and Dad*, was appealed to the Baltimore City Court, thus indicating the industry's general acceptance of the Board's rulings. The decision rejecting that picture was recently completely sustained by the Honorable W. Conwell Smith, Chief Judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City.

The chairman and vice-chairman of the Board have been in attendance daily at its headquarters, 848 N. Howard Street, Baltimore, devoting their full time to reviewing films and conducting its administrative affairs. A weekly meeting of the Board's entire membership was held throughout the year to consider pertinent matters and its deliberations and actions are recorded in its minute-book. Every endeavor has been made to execute faithfully the purposes for which the Board was established. In rendering decisions, its members have taken care to avoid being influenced by personal opinions and have tried to perform their duties in a consistent and fair-minded manner so as to meet with the public's approval and support. In this connection, the Board has repeatedly sought the advice of outstanding citizens and groups on films dealing especially with religious and racial subjects, the latter finding their way into Maryland in increasing numbers during

the past year and presenting matter never before attempted on the screen.

The Baltimore Police Commissioner and his aides, as well as the Baltimore Director of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, have kindly come to the Board's offices and viewed and discussed the advisability of the Board licensing certain pictures that had crime and narcotics for their themes.

### Commendation of the Board

The extent to which the Board has earned public respect can be measured by a number of commendations it has received during the past year, some of which are set forth below.

The International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, Maryland Chapter, has repeatedly expressed its pleasure with the work of the Board.

Mr. Carl Murphy, publisher of the *Afro-American*, in a letter to Mr. Traub, dated May 9, 1951, stated in part, as follows: "Thank you for the time you gave me and, above all, for the forthrightness of your board which uses its discretion to eliminate epithets applying to any race from motion pictures. No one goes to the movies to be offended . . . No language should be permitted in a movie which is not commonplace in the average respectable home. This is the way you have conducted your office and I am very happy to bear testimony to it."

Mr. Leon Sachs, Executive Director of the Baltimore Jewish Council representing seven organizations prominently identified with Jewish affairs in Maryland, under date of August 14, 1951, wrote the following letter to Mr. Traub: "I want to take this opportunity to thank you and your associates on the Board for the courtesies which you have extended the Baltimore Jewish Council, and I want to commend your Board for the fine public service which you are rendering. Your practice of acquainting interested groups of citizens with films that may be of special interest to them has resulted in the promotion of harmony and better understanding in the community. I trust that you will continue to render this kind of public service."

And quoting from a letter dated April 25, 1951, of Mr. Arthur H. DeBra, Director of the Community Relations Department of the Motion Picture Association of America, of which Mr. Eric Johnston is president: "I want you to know we think you are doing a swell job."

### Inspections

The Board employs five inspectors, who made 4,397 inspections of the 296 motion picture theatres that operated in Maryland during the past year. An automobile just granted to the Board will enable it to substantially increase the inspections of theatres, principally those located in the counties, which, due to the lack of facilities and adequate traveling expenses, could be inspected only four times last year while all city theatres were being inspected weekly.

### Prosecutions

In two instances, the Board instituted prosecutions for violations of the law. One case involved deceptive advertising. Some 500 large posters were spread in various sections of Baltimore City which conveyed the impression that a wax exhibit entitled, *Birth Of A Baby*, was a motion picture. Police Magistrate Stanley L. Richardson found the offender guilty and imposed a fine of \$50.00 and costs.

The second case has yet to be disposed of, since the alleged offender left the State before process could be served upon him. The Board has charged him with exhibiting uncensored stereopticon slides at a drive-in theatre near Hagerstown. These slides, which the Board succeeded in obtaining, depicted such objectionable sequences as to have necessitated their rejection had they been submitted for licensing.

### Conclusion

The Board extends its hearty thanks to you for the support and cooperation that you accorded it.

It also takes this opportunity to commend Deputy Attorney General J. Edgar Harvey for his able assistance.

Respectfully submitted,  
SYDNEY R. TRAUB, *Chairman*  
EVA M. HOLLAND, *Vice-Chairman*  
JOHN K. BURKLEY, *Secretary*

August 31, 1951

# MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1951

## Receipts

### Fees:

Original Reels—35 MM (6,771,907 ft.).....	\$15,345.00	
Original Reels—16 MM ( 102,767 ft.).....	568.00	
Original Reels—16 MM ( 2,458 ft.).....	24.00	
(Reversible) .....		\$15,937.00
Duplicate Reels—35 MM (54,251,194 ft.).....	\$61,863.00	
Duplicate Reels—16 MM		
Duplicate Reels—16 MM		
(Reversible) .....		61,863.00
Sale of Substitute Seals (2,085).....	2,085.00	
		\$79,885.00
Deposited to Credit of State Treasurer.....		\$79,885.00

## Expenses

### Salaries:

Board Members .....	\$ 8,580.00	
Other Employees .....	31,375.97	
		\$39,955.97

### Other Expenses:

Repairs .....	\$ 58.40	
Light, Heat, Power and Water.....	297.22	
Traveling .....	1,434.74	
Communication .....	711.06	
Printing .....	78.00	
Contractual, Film Seals .....	3,299.40	
RCA Inspection Service .....	329.16	
Office Supplies .....	931.16	
Motion Picture Machine Supplies .....	283.85	
Office Equipment .....	172.34	
Motion Picture Equipment .....	105.50	
Insurance .....	32.50	
		\$ 7,733.33
		\$47,689.30

## Budget Account (Per Comptroller)

Appropriation, 1951 .....	\$50,721.00	
		\$50,721.00
Less Reversion to Reserve Fund.....	3,031.70	
		\$47,689.30

# Motion Picture

VII, 86

VII, 87

VII, 88

VII, 89

VII, 90

VII, 91

VII, 92

VII, 93

VII, 94

VII, 95

VII, 96

VII, 97

VII, 98

VII, 99

VII, 100



**MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS**  
**TABLE SHOWING TOTAL ANNUAL RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS**  
**TOGETHER WITH THE AMOUNTS REVERTING TO**  
**THE STATE TREASURY**

October 1, 1920 — June 30, 1951

	Receipts	Disbursements	Amount Reverting to State Treasury
10-1-20 to 9-30-21.....	\$ 26,488.33	\$ 19,025.26	\$ 7,463.07
10-1-21 to 9-30-22.....	26,866.90	19,842.12	7,024.78
10-1-22 to 9-30-23.....	27,059.51	19,892.93	7,166.58
10-1-23 to 9-30-24.....	26,338.50	20,730.44	5,608.06
10-1-24 to 9-30-25.....	29,249.50	22,207.24	7,042.26
10-1-25 to 9-30-26.....	30,207.92	22,662.82	7,545.10
10-1-26 to 9-30-27.....	32,498.55	24,883.80	7,614.75
10-1-27 to 9-30-28.....	38,165.57	27,734.69	10,430.88
10-1-28 to 9-30-29.....	44,486.27	32,937.76	11,548.51
10-1-29 to 9-30-30.....	38,954.98	31,718.26	7,236.72
10-1-30 to 9-30-31.....	35,245.85	31,816.79	3,429.06
10-1-31 to 9-30-32.....	35,637.44	32,158.81	3,478.63
10-1-32 to 9-30-33.....	35,152.34	34,207.93	944.41
10-1-33 to 9-30-34.....	36,563.00	27,174.49	9,388.51
10-1-34 to 9-30-35.....	39,463.00	27,577.76	11,885.24
10-1-35 to 9-30-36.....	44,073.00	28,927.98	15,145.02
10-1-36 to 9-30-37.....	49,293.00	28,855.10	20,437.90
10-1-37 to 9-30-38.....	48,659.00	30,197.34	18,461.66
10-1-38 to 9-30-39.....	50,180.00	30,302.92	19,877.08
10-1-39 to 9-30-40.....	53,180.00	29,598.72	23,581.28
10-1-40 to 9-30-41.....	55,877.00	30,347.18	25,529.82
10-1-41 to 9-30-42.....	55,561.00	31,135.92	24,425.08
10-1-42 to 6-30-43.....	39,828.00	22,578.29	17,249.71
7-1-43 to 6-30-44.....	55,585.00	35,112.59	20,472.41
7-1-44 to 6-30-45.....	55,054.00	35,090.08	19,963.92
7-1-45 to 6-30-46.....	59,396.00	35,802.90	23,593.10
7-1-46 to 6-30-47.....	65,961.00	42,150.48	23,810.52
7-1-47 to 6-30-48.....	72,832.00	44,814.74	28,017.26
7-1-48 to 6-30-49.....	78,606.00	47,468.24	31,137.76
7-1-49 to 6-30-50.....	82,328.00	48,565.63	33,762.37
7-1-50 to 6-30-51.....	79,885.00	47,689.30	32,195.70
	<hr/> \$1,448,675.66	<hr/> \$963,208.51	<hr/> *\$485,467.15

\* The above amount reverting to State Treasury does not include \$19,487.38 for period 6-1-16 to 9-30-20.

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

REPORT OF FILMS EXAMINED

July 1, 1950 — June 30, 1951

1950	Films		Reels		No. of Ft. Original	No. of Ft. Duplicate	Films		Films Elimi- nated
	Original	Duplicate	Original	Duplicate			Approved	Rejected	
July .....	163	1,334	535	3,741	470,470	3,812,136	1,472	2	23
August .....	254	1,612	845	5,671	765,190	4,751,836	1,852	2	12
September .....	185	1,482	724	5,431	584,671	4,326,039	1,646	1	20
October .....	212	1,571	1,095	5,558	560,330	4,980,543	1,763	2	18
November .....	197	1,574	661	5,537	520,748	4,394,649	1,744	0	27
December .....	188	1,560	694	5,668	553,972	4,523,578	1,716	0	32
1951									
January .....	209	1,608	859	5,974	605,319	4,747,177	1,805	1	11
February .....	185	1,428	653	4,959	542,707	4,186,156	1,558	0	55
March .....	201	1,584	696	5,568	573,507	4,500,876	1,764	1	20
April .....	203	1,522	948	6,244	691,838	5,020,076	1,699	0	26
May .....	165	1,478	590	5,407	477,812	4,272,428	1,597	0	46
June .....	177	1,575	662	5,928	530,568	4,735,700	1,736	0	16
TOTALS .....	2,339	18,328	8,962	65,686	6,877,132	54,251,194	20,352	9	306

**MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS**  
**CLASSIFICATION OF FILMS**

July 1, 1950 — June 30, 1951

1950	Dramas	Comedies	News	Cartoons	Adver- tising	Miscel- laneous
July .....	456	183	741	82	13	22
August .....	593	295	825	135	17	1
September .....	528	176	839	110	12	2
October .....	583	219	760	175	26	20
November .....	510	231	855	145	29	1
December .....	545	199	847	132	20	5
1951						
January .....	565	239	831	158	19	5
February .....	509	200	742	93	66	3
March .....	545	225	839	155	20	1
April .....	642	195	746	124	18	0
May .....	512	186	831	102	9	3
June .....	564	181	856	131	11	9
Totals.....	6,552	2,529	9,712	1,542	260	72

**SUMMARY OF REPORT**

Films, Original .....	2,339				
Films, Duplicate .....	18,328				
Reels, Original .....		8,962			
Reels, Duplicate .....		65,686			
Number of Feet, Original....			6,877,132		
Number of Feet, Duplicate....			54,251,194		
Films Approved .....					20,352
Films Rejected .....					9
Films Eliminated .....					306
Totals .....	20,667	74,648	61,128,326	20,667	